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2 Amendment "A"
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4 Please cancel claims 17-24, without prejudice. The state of the claims following
5 this Amendment "A" is as follows:
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a! 7 Claim 1 (original). A method of binding a plurality of sheets into a bound sheet stack,
8 comprising:

9 providing a first sheet and a second sheet, at least one of the sheets having a
10 protective coating applied to a least a portion thereof;

11 overlaying the first and second sheets so that at least a portion of the protective
12 coating on the at least one sheet contacts the other sheet; and

13 applying a binding energy to a binding region defined on the first and second
14 sheets to thereby bind the sheets into a sheet stack, the binding region comprising a
15 selected area of the protective coating on the at least one sheet, the selected area
16 being in contact with the other sheet.
17

18 Claim 2 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the binding energy comprises at
19 least one of heat, pressure, ultrasonic energy, or electromagnetic energy.
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21 Claim 3 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the binding energy comprises a
22 combination of heat and pressure.
23

24 Claim 4 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the binding energy is selected to
25 cause the protective coating on the at least one sheet to substantially fuse to the other
sheet in binding region.

1 Claim 5 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the binding energy is selected to
2 cause the protective coating on the at least one sheet to partially fuse to the other sheet
3 in binding region.

4
5 Claim 6 (original). The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

6 providing a third sheet which has a protective coating applied to at least a portion
7 thereof;

8 laying the third sheet onto the sheet stack so that so that at least a portion of the
9 protective coating on the third sheet contacts one of the first or the second sheet; and

10 applying the binding energy to the binding region to thereby bind the third sheet
11 to the sheet stack.

12
13 Claim 7 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the first and second sheets are
14 each defined by a first edge, and when the sheets are overlaid, the first edges of the
15 sheets substantially coincide, and further wherein the binding region extends inwardly
16 from the first edge of the sheets.

17
18 Claim 8 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein:

19 the sheets are each further defined by a first corner;

20 when the sheets are overlaid, the respective first corners substantially coincide;

21 and

22 the binding region is located at the first corner of the sheets.

23
24 Claim 9 (original). The method of claim 1, and further comprising, prior to applying the
25 binding energy, folding the first sheet to thereby create a first sheet folded edge, and
folding the second sheet to thereby create a second sheet folded edge, and wherein the
binding region extends along the folded edges of the sheets.

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1 Claim 10 (original). A method of producing a bound document, comprising:
2 providing a first sheet of media;
3 providing a second sheet of media;
4 generating an image on the second sheet of media;
5 applying a protective coating to the second sheet of media;
6 laying the second sheet onto the first sheet so at least a portion of the protective
7 coating on the second sheet contacts the first sheet; and
8 applying a binding energy to a preselected binding region of the first and second
9 sheets to thereby bind the sheets into a sheet stack.

10
11 Claim 11 (original). The method of claim 10, and wherein the binding energy is applied
12 in the form of at least one of heat, pressure or ultrasonic energy.

13
14 Claim 12 (original). The method of claim 10, and wherein the first and second sheets of
15 media are each defined by a respective first edge, and when the second sheet is laid
16 onto the first sheet, the respective first edges of the sheets substantially coincide.

17
18 Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 12, and further comprising:
19 providing a third sheet of media which is defined by a first edge;
20 generating an image on the third sheet of media;
21 applying a protective coating to the third first sheet of media;
22 laying the third sheet onto the second sheet so at least a portion of the protective
23 coating on the third sheet contacts the second sheet and so that the respective first
24 edges of the sheets substantially coincide; and
25 applying the binding energy to the preselected binding area to thereby bind the
third sheet into the sheet stack.

1 Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 13, and wherein the binding energy is first
2 applied to the first and second sheets to form a sheet sub-stack, and the binding energy
3 is then applied to the third sheet and the sheet sub-stack to form the sheet stack.

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5 Claim 15 (original). The method of claim 13, and wherein the binding energy is applied
6 to the first, the second and the third sheets simultaneously to form the sheet stack.

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8 Claim 16 (original). The method of claim 10, and wherein the binding energy is applied
9 so as to cause the protective coating on at least one of the sheets to become plastic in
10 the preselected binding region.

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12 Claims 17-24 (cancelled).

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14 (End of Amendment "A")
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